

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a messaging system providing access for authorized users to pre-stored messages, wherein at least one of said pre-stored messages has multiple message portions including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by a person or persons other than the first person, a method for providing access to selected portions of said at least one of said pre-stored messages comprising the steps of:

providing a signal to a user indicative of at least one of said pre-stored messages being available for access by said user;

upon selection by said user of an available pre-stored message, having multiple message portions including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by a person or persons other than the first person, providing said user a different signal indicating that said selected pre-stored message includes both an initial audio message and one or more audio attachments;

providing a user option for selecting one message portion from a selected pre-stored message which includes an initial audio message with one or more audio attachments; and

upon selection by a user of said one message portion of said selected pre-stored message, causing only said selected portion to be provided to said user,

wherein said pre-stored messages may be coded to restrict a forwarding of one or more portions of a message so coded to one or more identified users.

2. (Previously Presented) The method for providing access of claim 1 wherein said user option for selection of said one message portion includes an initial selection choice between said initial audio message and said audio attachments.

3. (Previously Presented) The method for providing access of claim 2 wherein an exercise of said initial selection choice in favor of said audio attachments provides a further option to select a given one of said audio attachments associated with said selected pre-stored message.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for providing access of claim 3 wherein said selection of said given one of said audio attachments is iteratively repeated to select additional ones of said audio attachments associated with said selected pre-stored message.

5. (Original) The method for providing access of claim 1 wherein at least one of said user selection steps is initiated by said user in response to a prompt generated by said messaging system.

6. (Original) The method for providing access of claim 5 wherein said user response includes an interrupt signal to said system prompt.

7. (Original) The method for providing access of claim 5 wherein said user response is manifested by engaging a pre-designated key on a keypad associated with said messaging system.

8. (Original) The method for providing access of claim 5 wherein selectable portions of said pre-stored messages are stored in a memory associated with a computer processor, and said user response is manifested by selection of said desired message portion via a graphical user interface associated with said computer processor.

9. (Original) The method for providing access of claim 1 wherein said messaging system is a voice mail system.

10. (Original) The method for providing access of claim 9 wherein said provision of said selected portion to said user is implemented via an audio playback of said selected portion.

11. (Original) The method for providing access of claim 1 further including a user option to return to a start position upon initiation by said user of a pre-designated interrupt signal.

12. (Previously Presented) The method for providing access of claim 1 wherein said pre-stored messages are formatted in the form of header and body sections, and wherein said header section includes address, location and status information and said body section includes message content.

13. (Previously Presented) The method for providing access of claim 12 wherein, for a pre-stored message including audio attachments, said header section for an attachment includes a pointer to its associated initial audio message.

14. (Original) The method for providing access of claim 1 wherein said pre-stored messages may be coded to restrict selection of one or more portions of a message so coded to a predetermined number of user-selection operations.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A messaging system for providing authorized users of said system with access to selected portions of pre-stored messages, wherein at least one of said pre-stored messages has a plurality of message portions including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by a person or persons other than the first person, said system comprising:

a message available indicator operative to provide a signal to a user of at least one of said pre-stored messages being available for access by said user;

an input device responsive to user input to select an available message for further processing by said system;

a message attachments indicator operative to provide a signal to said user indicating that a selected available message, including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by

a person or persons other than the first person, includes both an initial audio message and one or more audio attachments;

a selection interface operating in conjunction with said input device for providing said user an option to select a desired portion of a message that includes one or more audio attachments, and for accepting a signal from said user identifying said selected desired portion; ~~and~~

an output device for providing said selected desired portion to said user; and

a coding means operative to code said pre-stored messages to restrict a forwarding of one or more portions of a message to one or more identified users.

17. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 16 wherein said selection interface is operative to provide said user an initial selection choice between said initial audio message and said audio attachments.

18. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 17 wherein said selection interface provides a further option to select a given one of said audio attachments associated with said selected pre-stored message.

19. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 18 wherein, upon selection by said user of said given one of said audio attachments, said selection interface further provides an option to repeatedly select additional ones of said attachments.

20. (Original) The messaging system of claim 16 wherein said input device includes a keypad.

21. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 16 further including a computer processor, an associated memory and an associated graphical user interface, wherein selectable portions of said pre-stored messages are stored in said memory and said user selection of a desired message portion is manifested via said graphical user interface.

22. (Original) The messaging system of claim 16 wherein said system is configured for storing and processing voice mail.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Original) The messaging system of claim 16 further including a coding means operative to code said pre-stored messages to restrict selection of one or more portions of a message to a predetermined number of user-selection operations.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Original) The messaging system of claim 16 wherein said pre-stored messages are formatted in the form of header and body records, and wherein said header section includes address, location and status information and said body section includes message content.

27-30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The method for providing access of claim 1,~~ In a messaging system providing access for authorized users to pre-stored messages, wherein at least one of said pre-stored messages has multiple message portions including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by a person or persons other than the first person, a method for providing access to selected portions of said at least one of said pre-stored messages comprising the steps of:

providing a signal to a user indicative of at least one of said pre-stored messages being available for access by said user;

upon selection by said user of an available pre-stored message, having multiple message portions including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by a person or persons other than the first person, providing said user a different signal indicating that said selected pre-stored message includes both an initial audio message and one or more audio attachments;

providing a user option for selecting one message portion from a selected pre-stored message which includes an initial audio message with one or more audio attachments; and

upon selection by a user of said one message portion of said selected pre-stored message, causing only said selected portion to be provided to said user.

wherein a pre-stored message, including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by a person or persons other than the first person, is coded by the user and forwarded by the user to a further user, wherein the coding limits the ability of the further user to forward the initial audio message or one or more of the audio attachments.

32. (Previously Presented) The method for providing access of claim 1, wherein a pre-stored message, including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by a person or persons other than the first person, is partially deleted by the user and forwarded by the user to a further user, wherein the deleted portions may include the initial audio message or one or more of the audio attachments.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The messaging system of claim 16 further including~~
A messaging system for providing authorized users of said system with access to selected portions of pre-stored messages, wherein at least one of said pre-stored messages has a plurality of message portions including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by a person or persons other than the first person, said system comprising:

a message available indicator operative to provide a signal to a user of at least one of said pre-stored messages being available for access by said user;

an input device responsive to user input to select an available message for further processing by said system;

a message attachments indicator operative to provide a signal to said user indicating that a selected available message, including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by a person or persons other than the first person, includes both an initial audio message and one or more audio attachments;

a selection interface operating in conjunction with said input device for providing said user an option to select a desired portion of a message that includes one or more audio attachments, and for accepting a signal from said user identifying said selected desired portion;

an output device for providing said selected desired portion to said user; and

a coding means, wherein a pre-stored message, including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by a person or persons other than the first person, is coded by the user using said coding means and forwarded by the user to a further user, wherein the coding limits the ability of the further user to forward the initial audio message or one or more of the audio attachments.

34. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 16, wherein said selection interface operating in conjunction with said input device also provides the user an option to select a desired portion of a pre-stored message, including an initial audio message created by a first person and one or more audio attachments to said initial audio message created by a person or persons other than the first person, to delete before

forwarding the pre-stored message to a further user, wherein the deleted portions may include the initial audio message or one or more of the audio attachments.